

The Orrery's Promise

By

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I/E. DEEP SPACE VOID

Stars slowly appear from the nothing as the narrator begins.

NARRATOR (V.O.):

Once upon a time, twice within your soul, and thrice for good measure, in a far-off paradox, there lived a group of stars known as the Celestial Disorder of Nature; later known as a symbol that could not be written or read.

Four stars orbiting one another move into focus.

NARRATOR (V.O.): (CONT'D)

This Disorder of Nature was made up of all different types of stars, each with their own unique abilities, characteristics, and fixed positions relative to the sound of light encompassing their mass. The leader, - Sol'd -

A bright, red-hot star with a likeness to our sun burns as flares emit around its sunspots.

NARRATOR (V.O.): (CONT'D)

was a bright and shining main sequence star; know for his warmth and kindness.

Two more stars fall into view.

NARRATOR (V.O.): (CONT'D)

Sol'd was joined by his companions Betelgeuse - a red giant star, and Sirius - a white dwarf star. Together, their electromagnetic energy would unknowingly create the very fabric of our existence. At first, they attempted to interfere with the lives and planets inhabiting their aftermath..

EXT. VILLAGE ON DISTANT PLANET - MIDDAY

Humanoids dressed in medieval garb bump into one another, stand idle in awkward positions, and some circle round and

round in a continuous fashion.

CROWD:

(murmuring)

Ope, pardon me there..no after you.
Ope, my mistake. No no no, I insist..
Please, no after you. Ope, didn't see
ya there..

NARRATOR (V.O.):

On this particular day, on this
particular planet, a group of evil,
power-hungry neutron stars had taken
control of the inhabitants. Treating
them as playthings under a microscope.
Oppression by means of social
embarrassment all the days long until
the sleep takes hold of the nothing
behind weary day dwellers..

All humanoids collapse like dominoes one after another into a
pile while apologies continuously fade out.

CUT TO: HORIZON LINE BEHIND VILLAGE

EXT. DUSTY BARREN PLAINS OF DISTANT PLANET - DAWN

A single figure appears as a mounted silhouette in the
distance. Princess Aurora fades into view. Kentuckleberry
follows closely behind her. They journey until they reach the
foot of a mountain range then set up camp. Ken plates a meal
from the fire and hands it to Aurora.

EXT. BASE OF MOUNTAIN RANGE/CAMP SITE - NIGHT

AURORA:

I was thinking maybe it would be best
to seek out the Ancient Temple of
Nothingness. It is said to be hidden
within these mountains. Perhaps at day
break we can begin. What are you
thinking?

Ken spills his plate in his lap. He scoops the meal back onto
the plate and picks up scraps to blow off the dirt.

KEN:

Well, ya sure that sounds lovely.
Isn't there some sort of Guardian at
the entrance though? Or is that just
folklore?

AURORA:

It's hard to say. I've heard tales of the Guardian as a child. But I have never seen for myself. It is possible that he too was taken by a disease of the New Age. Perhaps the folklore is enough to keep most people away on its own.

KEN:

Huh..dis-ease. That's strange. It's like saying to rid something of ease. But it's strictly medical for us..

Aurora tamps out the fire and retires to her tent while Ken stares up at the stars. He panders on his thoughts, talks to himself.

EXT. CAMPSITE - MORNING

Aurora exits her tent and sees Ken asleep in the same spot she left him. She tamps the fire and begins to pack up. Ken abruptly opens his eyes, stretches, and begins to tear down the campsite. Once loaded up, they begin to move again

KEN:

So I thought about it.. and here's what I came up with..

AURORA:

Thought about what?

KEN:

Our little talk last night, it got me curious about the word 'disease'. and this is what I came up with..

Ken scurries to the side of Aurora's steed. He struggles to keep up his pace and becomes winded.

KEN: (CONT'D)

So, the word 'disease' has its roots in the Latin term 'dissidium' which means "to be a part of" or "to be at odds." This root is thought to reflect the idea that a disease represents a state of disharmony or imbalance in the body or mind. Eventually, the term 'dissidium' was absorbed into the Old French Language as 'desaise' which was used to refer to a physical discomfort
(MORE)

KEN: (CONT'D)

or unease. Then, again this idea is borrowed by English speakers as 'disease' to describe any abnormal condition that affects the functioning of the body or mind.

AURORA:

My, My. Chatty today aren't we? Would you like that we stop to catch your breath? Or is this something new you're trying? Talking without breathing?

They both stop as Ken catches his breath. Aurora scans the horizon and pulls out a strange instrument to gather information about the surrounding area.

KEN:

Even though we accepted the word disease to encompass a wide range of conditions, mental and physical, in the past, the present understanding of 'disease' is any abnormal condition that impairs the normal functioning of the body or mind. No one in the modern day would hear the word 'disease' and think oh that means to be apart from or at odds with something.

AURORA:

I can hardly tell the difference. Is there a point to what you're saying? Are you suggesting that we 'disease' from one another? You may want to breath more between words..for else you may get light-headed and fall in the mud.

Aurora scans the area again. Her instrument detects a field of energy coming from scattered origins. She looks puzzled, and dismounts her steed. Ken lays on the ground, breathing.

KEN:

So, Mrs. Literal Factory, if the Guardian of the Ancient Temple of Nothing fell to 'disease' in the folklore, maybe it meant that he was separated from the entrance. And that's why no one can find it! The Guardian could be the key that unlocks

(MORE)

KEN: (CONT'D)
the entrance from our realm!

Aurora looks at Ken in disbelief.

AURORA:
You know, if you were a little bit smarter, you might be dangerous. That is the most original and believable explanation for the disappearance of the Ancient Temple of Nothingness I have ever heard. and I've heard them all.

Ken blushes as he stands up and dusts himself off.

KEN:
Who says I'm not dangerous? Huh? Lots of people say I'm not the smartest, but that's exactly what I want them to beeeeeee---

Ken steps on a trap door and suddenly disappears. Aurora spins around searching for Ken, unaware of the trap door. She is suddenly alone and decides to continue moving.

AURORA: (V.O.)
How did he do that? That was not dangerous or smart..it was. it was..rude! The next time I see him, his ears will get a mouth full from my fists and their punches.. foolish..

CUT TO: FADE